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MAR 10 2003

Fenwick & West LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
TC 3600

In re application of
Walter W. Lee
Application No. 09/782,681
Filed: February 12, 2001
For: IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF FRAUDULENT CREDIT/DEBIT CARD
PURCHASES AT MERCHANT
ECOMMERCE SITES

: DECISION ON REQUEST
: FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
: ATTORNEY

This is a decision on the request filed on November 4, 2002, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney in the above-identified application is not approved because the request does not comply with conditions A) and B) above.

As to condition A), there is a single attorney signing the request on behalf of attorneys associated with Customer No. 00758. There are currently seven attorneys of record in this application based upon the original declaration. All must sign or one must clearly sign on behalf of the others. The reference to a customer number appears to not include all the attorneys of record. If less than all the attorneys wish to withdraw and a portion of the originally listed attorneys wish to retain power, any renewed request must so state, otherwise the person signing must be signing on behalf of all the attorneys of record

As to condition B), there is nothing in the file record that indicates the existence of an assignee or that the assignee is the client. Absent a 3.73(b) statement, the "client" referred to in 37 CFR 10.40 is seen as being those individuals who conferred power upon the attorneys, in this case the inventors.



Steven N. Meyers
Special Programs Examiner
Patent Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-3868
(703) 605-0586 (facsimile)

SNM/tpl: 3/6/03